

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5045

AEC GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 7970

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON

RELIABILITY OF REACTOR PRESSURE

COMPONENTS, VIENNA, DECEMBER 1974

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED AGENCY LETTER INFORMING US THAT AGENCY HAS DECIDED TO REORGANIZE ITS EXISTING IWG ON ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL STEELS INTO A NEW (SUBJECT) IWG WITH BROADER MANDATE. REORGANIZED AS SUBJECT IWG, NEW GROUP WOULD HOLD FIRST MEETING IN VIENNA THIS DECEMBER.

2. AGENCY NOTES THAT IWG ON IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968 AND SINCE THEN HAS FACILITATED EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CARRIED OUT COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THIS AREA. WORK OF THIS IWG HAS HELPED SHOW THERE IS ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUBJECT TO FORM BASIS FOR SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS OF STRUCTURAL REACTOR COMPONENTS. RAPIDLY-EXPANDING NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EMBARKING ON NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS, AND CONSEQUENT INTRODUCTION OF AGENCY'S EXPANDED NUCLEAR SAFETY ACTIVITIES, MAKES DESIRABLE A REORIENTATION OF ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING STANDING AGENCY IWG'S, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

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3. AGENCY GOES ON TO NOTE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FACILITATING DECISION TO REORGANIZE THIS IWG TO FORM SUBJECT GROUP; IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT OF PRESSURE VESSEL STEELS IS ONLY ONE OF NUMBER OF ACTUAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH RELIABILITY OF REACTOR PRESSURE COMPONENTS R&D PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA EXIST IN NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES AND THERE IS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL DIALOG ON CERTAIN ASPECTS THESE PROGRAMS. AGENCY SUGGESTS THAT ACTIVITIES OF REORGANIZED IWG SHOULD BE MORE ORIENTED TO PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF DESIGN, INSTALLATION, TESTING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR PRESSURE SYSTEMS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST AND NEED FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EMBARKING ON NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS. ACTIVITY SHOULD INCLUDE PREPARATION OF INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE BY POWER PLANT OWNERS AND OPERATORS IN VARIOUS PHASES OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATIONS, E.G., CONTRACTING FOR PLANT, PREPARATION OF TECH SPECS, INSTALLATION, TESTING, INSPECTIONS, OPERATION, M&R OF POWER PLANT PRESSURE SYSTEMS. LETTER ATTACHES DETAILED PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REORGANIZED IWG, AND PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR FIRST MEETING.

4. AGENCY IS INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR SUBJECT IWG FROM MEMBERS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DEVELOPMENT OF PRESSURE VESSEL TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH COMPETENCE IN THIS FIELD, AND SUGGESTS THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SPECIALIST WHO HAS ALREADY PARTICIPATED IN IWG ON IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT COULD BECOME MEMBER OF SUBJECT IWG FOR PERIOD OF ABOUT THREE YEARS. US PARTICIPANT IN IWG ON IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT WAS DR. LEONARD E. STEELE, NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, MISSION NOTES THAT DR. STEELE WILL BE IN VIENNA OCTOBER 23-25 AT AGENCY EXPENSE AS CONSULTANT IN CONNECTION WITH RESEARCH COORDINATION MEETING ON IRRADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT OF PRESSURE VESSEL STEELS (STATE 197579), AND SUGGESTS THAT FOREGOING AND PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REORGANIZED IWG BE PASSED TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARIAT WHILE HERE.

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6. AGENCY REQUESTS INDICATION OF WHETHER USG WILL NOMINATE EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE IN IWG AND ATTEND FIRST MEETING BY OCTOBER 31, 1974. COPIES OF AGENCY LETTER AND ATTACHMENTS POUCHED AMMONS, AEC. ADVISE.TAPE

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